

Running with the Saints

(Hebrews 12:1-2; Isaiah 26:19; Revelation 22:4-5) (Nov. 4, 2007)

Introduction: “Ready, Set, Go!” - *Running with my faithful dog, Blade*

I. RUNNING IS SUPERB METAPHOR FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

- A. So says **Hebrews 12:1-2**
- B. A lot of training goes into the running of a marathon (42km/26.2 miles)
- C. Non-runners simply do not understand and often they mock the effort
- D. The Christian life is a marathon with obstacles, temptations & mockers (**Gal.5:7**)

II. OUR LORD PROVIDES FOR US SO WE DON'T RUN THE RACE ALONE

- A. He doesn't shout from the sidelines: “*sweat more & work harder!*”
- B. He provides what every runner craves & needs
 - 1. How wonderful are cheerleaders, encouragers & supporters in a road race!
 - 2. In the race of life, God provides the same
 - a) **Hebrews 12:1** - “*The great cloud of witnesses*” (ALL THE SAINTS!)
 - b) These saints are the “*Church on earth and the Church in Heaven*”

- 1. The saints along the race course on earth
- 2. The saints who have already crossed the finish line in heaven

(**Heb. 11; Isa. 26:19; Rev. 22:4-5**)

- c) Best of all is Jesus who has run & finished the race (**Heb. 12:2**)

Conclusion: *Olympian Derek Redmond & the 1992 400 metre race*